

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/830,019

Examiner

Tuyen To

Applicant(s)

KASHIWAGI ET AL.

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TT

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment and Remarks filed on 03/06/2006 and Supplemental Amendment filed on 03/08/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-9 (renumbering per 37 CFR 1.126).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JACK CHIANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is a response to the amendment and remarks/arguments filed on 03/06/2006 and to the Supplemental Amendment filed on 03/08/2006.
2. The amended title has been approved.
3. Claims 2 and 10-13 have been canceled.
4. Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
6. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David A. Blumenthal (Reg. No. 26,257) on 04/06/2006.
7. The application has been amended as follows:

In the claim:

8. Claim 9, line 1, after "The" delete "A".

In the specification:

9. In the abstract, line 10, delete " short-through" insert --shoot-through--.

In the amendment (filed on 03/06/2006)

10. On page 6, line 11, change "On page 12" to " On page 14".

Allowable Subject Matter

11. **Claims 1 and 3-9** contain allowable subject matter.

12. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claims 1 and 5-9 are allowed *because* in a method of designing a semiconductor circuit device, *the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest* generating boundary circuit connection information indicating that the boundary circuit is connected on a transmission path between the first circuit and the second circuit wherein the boundary circuit comprises a suppressing circuit for suppressing shoot-through current of a boundary between the first circuit the second circuit, said suppressing circuit including a logic circuit receiving an enable signal in a first state from one of said first circuit and second circuit which is ON for suppressing said shoot-through current of the boundary between said first circuit and second circuit when the other of said first circuit and second circuit is OFF, and receiving an enable signal in a second state for enabling signal transfer between said first and second circuits when each of said first and second circuits are ON, *in combination with other limitations as recited in claim 1.*

Claim 3 is allowed *because* in a method of designing a semiconductor circuit device, *the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest* generating boundary circuit connection information indicating that the boundary circuit is connected on a transmission path between the first circuit and the second circuit wherein the boundary circuit comprises a circuit for preventing circuit malfunction due to an indeterminate signal between the first circuit and the second circuit when a power supply of the first

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circuit is OFF, and a power supply of the second circuit is ON, *in combination with other limitations as recited in claim 3.*

Claim 4 is allowed *because* in a method of designing a semiconductor circuit device, *the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest* generating boundary circuit connection information indicating that the boundary circuit is connected on a transmission path between the first circuit and the second circuit wherein the boundary circuit comprises a suppressing circuit for suppressing leakage current of a boundary between the first circuit and the second circuit, said suppression circuit including a logic circuit receiving an enable signal in a first state from one of said first circuit and second circuit which is ON for suppressing said leakage current of the boundary between said first circuit and second circuit when the other of said first circuit and second circuit is OFF, and receiving an enable signal in a second state for enabling signal transfer between said first and second circuits when each of said first and second circuits are ON, *in combination with other limitations as recited in claim 4. .*

13. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuyen To whose telephone number is (571) 272-8319. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Chiang can be reached on (571) 272-7483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

15. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Tuyen To

Patent examiner

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JACK CHIANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER